

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 31. (currently amended) A high performance tyre, comprising:

a carcass provided with at least one carcass ply;

a belt comprising two or more layers of reinforcing cords parallel to each other in a layer and crossed with respect to those of an adjacent layer, applied circumferentially on the carcass;

a radially-external layer of circumferentially-oriented reinforcing cords applied on the belt; and

a tread band comprising an underlayer and an external layer;

wherein the underlayer is made from an elastomer compound comprising reinforcing fibers and hardening resins; and

wherein a hardness of the underlayer does not vary by more than 5 International Rubber Hardness Degrees (IRHD) over a temperature range between 23°C and 100°C.

Claim 32. (previously presented) The tyre of claim 31, wherein the hardness of the underlayer does not vary or varies by less than 5 IRHD over a temperature range between 23°C and 100°C.

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Claim 33. (previously presented) The tyre of claim 31, wherein the hardness of the underlayer does not vary by more than 1 IRHD over a temperature range between 23°C and 100°C.

Claim 34. (previously presented) The tyre of claim 31, wherein the hardness of the underlayer is greater than 80 IRHD at 100°C.

Claim 35. (previously presented) The tyre of claim 31, wherein the hardness of the underlayer is greater than 85 IRHD at 100°C.

Claim 36. (withdrawn, currently amended) ~~A high performance~~ The tyre of claim 31, comprising:

~~a carcass provided with at least one carcass ply;~~

~~a belt comprising two or more layers of reinforcing cords parallel to each other in a layer and crossed with respect to those of an adjacent layer, applied circumferentially on the carcass;~~

~~a radially external layer of circumferentially oriented reinforcing cords applied on the belt; and~~

~~a tread band comprising an underlayer and an external layer;~~

wherein the underlayer has an elastic modulus which is substantially constant over a temperature range between 70°C and 100°C.

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Claim 37. (withdrawn, previously presented) The tyre of claim 36, wherein the elastic modulus of the underlayer does not vary by more than 10% over a temperature range between 70°C and 100°C.

Claim 38. (withdrawn, previously presented) The tyre of claim 37, wherein the elastic modulus of the underlayer does not vary by more than 5% over a temperature range between 70°C and 100°C.

Claim 39. (withdrawn, previously presented) The tyre of claim 36, wherein the elastic modulus of the underlayer is greater than 15 MPa at 100°C.

Claim 40. (withdrawn, previously presented) The tyre of claim 39, wherein the elastic modulus of the underlayer is greater than 20 MPa at 100°C.

Claim 41. (canceled)

Claim 42. (withdrawn, currently amended) The tyre of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 31, wherein the underlayer has a ratio between a 10% elongation load in a circumferential direction and a 10% elongation load in a transverse direction which is greater than 3:1.

Claim 43. (withdrawn, currently amended) The tyre of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 31, wherein the hardening resins are based on components chosen from among one or more of the

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following groups: resorcinol-methylene donors, epoxides-dicarboxylic acids, epoxides-diamines, epoxides-polyols, and alcohol-diacids.

Claim 44. (withdrawn, previously presented) The tyre of claim 43, wherein the methylene donors are hexamethoxymethylmelamine (HMMM) or hexamethylenetetramine (HMT).

Claim 45. (withdrawn, currently amended) The tyre of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 31, wherein the underlayer comprises a hardening resin based on resorcinol and methylene donors in precondensed form in a quantity greater than 0.5 phr.

Claim 46. (withdrawn, currently amended) The tyre of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 31, wherein the elastomer compound comprises a hardening resin based on resorcinol and methylene donors in a form of two components, wherein a quantity of resorcinol is greater than 0.5 phr, and wherein a ratio of a quantity of methylene donors to the quantity of resorcinol is between 0.5:1 and 3:1.

Claim 47. (withdrawn, currently amended) The tyre of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 31, wherein the reinforcing fibers are chosen from among: polyamides, polyesters, polyolefins, carbon fibers, glass fibers, and polyvinyl alcohol.

Claim 48. (withdrawn, currently amended) The tyre of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 31, wherein the reinforcing fibers are aramid fibers.

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Claim 49. (withdrawn, previously presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the elastomer compound comprises a quantity of aramid fibers ranging between 3 phr and 10 phr.

Claim 50. (withdrawn, previously presented) The tyre of claim 49, wherein the elastomer compound comprises a quantity of aramid fibers ranging between 6 phr and 9 phr.

Claim 51. (withdrawn, currently amended) The tyre of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 31, wherein the underlayer has a thickness greater than 1 mm.

Claim 52. (withdrawn, previously presented) The tyre of claim 51, wherein the underlayer has a thickness between 1.5 mm and 2 mm.

Claim 53. (withdrawn, previously presented) The tyre of claim 51, wherein the thickness of the underlayer is variable.

Claims 54-56. (canceled)

Claim 57. (withdrawn, currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[55]]~~ 58, wherein the thermostable compound has an elastic modulus which is substantially constant over a temperature range between 70°C and 100°C.

Claim 58. (currently amended) A method for improving behaviour at high speeds of a high-performance tyre, the tyre comprising:

a carcass provided with at least one carcass ply;

a belt comprising two or more layers of reinforcing cords parallel to each other in a layer and crossed with respect to those of an adjacent layer, applied circumferentially on the carcass; and

a radially-external layer of circumferentially-oriented reinforcing cords applied on the belt;

the method comprising:

mounting on a periphery of the radially-external layer a tread band comprising an underlayer and an external layer;

wherein the underlayer comprises a thermostable compound comprising reinforcing fibers and hardening resins, and

wherein a hardness of the thermostable compound does not vary by more than 5 IRHD over a temperature range between 23°C and 100°C.

Claim 59. (withdrawn, currently amended) The method of claim [[55]] 58, wherein the tread band is obtained by coextruding the underlayer and the external layer.

Claim 60. (withdrawn, currently amended) The method of claim [[55]] 58, wherein the underlayer is obtained by calendering.

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